



GOVERNOR CALLS FOR COMPREHENSIVE STATE INVESTIGATION INTO OIL SPILL

In response to the 58,000 gallon oil spill into the San Francisco Bay on November 7, Governor Schwarzenegger today called for a full state investigation into the causes of the spill.

"Any delays that hamper response and cleanup efforts are completely unacceptable," Governor Schwarzenegger said. "We will investigate the full breadth of the incident and get all of the answers. I want to assure all Californians that we will take any action necessary to prevent this from ever happening again."

State Agencies Launch a Full Investigation

Governor Schwarzenegger directed his Department of Fish and Game, Office of Spill Prevention and Response and Office of Emergency Services to conduct an aggressive, coordinated investigation into the causes of and response to the oil spill. He has also offered the state's full cooperation with any federal investigations regarding this emergency.

The Governor's investigation will be led by OSPR in coordination with DFG and OES. The investigation will identify civil and criminal liability and review procedures including preparation, response, notification, and cleanup; assess natural resource damage and the associated economic impact to fishermen, small businesses and state and local economies; assess environmental damage to water and beaches; identify the best ways to return the environment to its natural state; and identify areas for improvement in response, notification and clean up.

Although we must wait for these investigations to be complete, the Governor does not believe it is too early to start looking at potential policy changes. It is our responsibility to see what caused this oil spill and take every step to ensure changes are made, whether they are federal, state or local, to ensure something like this does not happen again.

Specifically, the investigation will analyze:

- Operational issues with vessels entering and leaving the San Francisco Bay. Why did this vessel collide with the fender of the Bay Bridge?
 - Issues that will be examined include speed limit restriction, tugboat escorts, inclement weather sailing conditions and limits and crew staffing requirements during these conditions.
- Navigational Tools and Vessel Communication. What were the mechanical/human failures?
 - Issues that will be examined include all communications and navigational equipment associated with vessel traffic, such as the Vessel Traffic Service System and the Physical Oceanographic Real Time System (PORTS).
- Communication Response. Why were there delays in communications and a failure to properly notify all impacted areas?
 - Issues that will be examined include rapid response communication, inter-governmental communications, notifications with local communities and the general public.
- Cleanup and Rapid Response Capabilities; Integrating Volunteers. Were there sufficient and adequate resources available and deployed to properly manage a spill of this magnitude? How can we promptly utilize volunteers, while also ensuring the safety of these individuals?
 - Issues that will be examined include how quickly federal, state and local resources were deployed to deal with the spill, how resource needs were determined based upon initial and subsequent assessment of the quantity of oil spilled and how quickly additional resources were notified to handle wildlife and marine life issues.

The State's Response to the Bay Area Oil Spill

The State's agencies and departments responded immediately to the oil spill, and the State continues to support containment and cleanup efforts in the Bay.

Office of the Governor

- **Issued An Emergency Declaration To Devote Additional State Resources.** The Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency on November 9, 2007, to free up additional state resources and directed OSPR to tap into a state-maintained, industry-supported trust fund to ensure that all possible resources are being utilized to expedite the cleanup process. The Governor also ordered the California Conservation Corps, CalFire, and CaliforniaVolunteers to work proactively to ensure all resources are available for cleanup.
- **Issued An Executive Order To Protect Public Health.** The Governor issued an Executive Order on November 13, 2007, to suspend all fishing for human consumption in areas affected by the spill. He also directed the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment in consultation with the California Department of Public Health to expeditiously review the available scientific information on whether a significant human health risk is posed by the consumption of marine life caught in the threatened area.

Department Of Fish And Game -- Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR)

- **Responded Immediately To The Spill.** OSPR responded immediately to the spill, sending a team consisting of a warden, biologist and oil spill prevention specialist to examine the area and assess how to proceed.
- **Established A Unified Command To Coordinate Response.** OSPR, U.S. Coast Guard and the responsible party's cleanup company (O'Brien Group) established a Unified Command to ensure a unified response.
- **Placed Containment Boom To Protect Wildlife And Beaches.** In conjunction with federal, local and private vessels, OSPR placed more than five miles (approximately 27,500 ft) of containment boom to protect the Bay's wildlife and beaches.
- **Supporting Ongoing Investigations Into The Spill.** OSPR is supporting the National Transportation Safety Board's independent investigation into the cause of the incident and the federal criminal investigation being led by the U.S. Attorney's Office (Northern District of California).
- **Leading Ongoing Cleanup Efforts.** OSPR has seven Shoreline Assessment Teams evaluating where additional cleanup is necessary and how it can be done in the most environmentally friendly manner. Eleven teams are using this information to continue beach cleanup, concentrating efforts in San Francisco and Marin County. There are 525 personnel assigned to these teams.
- **Leading Wildlife Recovery Efforts.** The Department of Fish and Game has assigned seven additional game wardens to wildlife recovery and security operations, and 27 Oiled Wildlife Care staff and 162 volunteers are at the Cordelia bird treatment facility. Twenty wildlife teams made up of 40 search-and-recovery personnel are collecting wildlife in affected areas.
- **Training Volunteers.** Approximately 500 volunteers have received training through OSPR and been certified to assist in the emergency oil spill response. The Department of Fish and Game, in conjunction with the Oiled Wildlife Care Network, has been utilizing 400 pre-trained volunteers. They have trained an additional 350 volunteers from the public who showed up to assist in the oiled wildlife rehabilitation efforts.
- **Providing Public Information.** Unified command, working with its partners, established hotlines to: report oil sightings (985-781-0804); report oiled wildlife (877-823-6926); file cost and loss claims (866-442-9650) and volunteer (800-228-4544). The Department of Fish and Game is also providing ongoing updates on the spill at its website, <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/>.

Office of Emergency Services (OES)

- Supporting Spill Notification Operations. In accordance with Spill Notification Protocols, the OES California State Warning Center (CSWC) notified state, local and federal partners of the spill and continues to provide updates and notifications.
- Coordinating And Providing Resources. OES staff continues to coordinate resources and provide support to federal, state and local officials. OES staff was on scene the day the spill occurred and dispatched a fire and rescue chief, law enforcement chief, hazardous-materials specialist, OES coastal region staff, medical and safety personnel. OES also sent equipment to support incident command.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

- Immediately Assessed The Impact Of The Collision With A Fender of The Bay Bridge. Caltrans immediately assessed the impact of the collision with a fender of the bridge and reported no concerns for vehicle traffic. Additional assessments continue.
- Repairing Damage To The Bay Bridge. Consistent with the Governor's emergency declaration, Caltrans is taking immediate steps to repair and restore any damage caused to the fender of the western span of the Bay Bridge.